



2024/2025 Annual Impact Report

MANITOBA

*Reporting on the impact of your
generosity in our communities.*



MCC Manitoba staff members Wesley Ncube (left) and Paul Plett cycled and raised funds for Cycle Clear Lake. (MCC photo/ Paul Plett)



Edward Wollman from Silverwinds Hutterite Colony is one of six Grow Hope farmers who donated acres, planted, tended and harvested crops in 2024. (MCC photo/Jessica Burtneck)



Serena Southerland (left) and Shelly Burrows work together alongside a dedicated team of volunteers at the Brandon MCC Thrift Shop. (MCC photo/Tim Smith)



Rebecca Engel (left) and Lindsey Knodel working at Sam's Place Coffee, a social enterprise run by MCC Manitoba that provides youth with on-the-job training to help them bridge the gap towards meaningful employment. (MCC photo/ Michael Veith)



Kimberly Mason, 17, hoop dances at the eighth annual We Are All Treaty People celebration at The Forks. (MCC photo/Jessica Burtneck)



Meron Mekonnen (right) and her daughter welcome visitors to the MCC table at the Newcomer Welcome Fair and Multiculturalism Day celebration. (Photo courtesy of Meron Mekonnen)

MCC Manitoba

100-140 Bannatyne Ave.
Winnipeg, MB R3B 3C5
(204) 261-6381
manitoba@mccmb.ca

Jesus told us that faith, even the size of
a mustard seed, can move mountains.
Your faith has been anything but small and
has accompanied us every step of the way.

These are the stories of your impact around
Manitoba, over the past year.

Thank you for your act of faith and generosity.



mcc.org/Manitoba

THANK YOU

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*“As everyone has received a gift, even so
serve one another with it.”*

— 1 PETER 4:10A MODERN ENGLISH VERSION (MEV)

Peter describes the actions of Jesus’ followers: they love without failing, show hospitality and serve with the gifts of God’s grace—all with strength. To receive a gift is to be sent to give it to others in loving gratitude.

Is it surprising to see these qualities in MCC’s many friends, supporters, staff, partners and volunteers in Manitoba? The stories, images and data in this report speak clearly of this sharing. Each one calls out, “Thank you!”

This year, the MCC Manitoba (MCCM) board visited the Material Resource Centre in Plum Coulee. There, local volunteers sew, receive and bale comforters, and pallet and ship kits for international program—familiar MCC gifts and tasks, done with care.

Guided by MCCM’s volunteer and engagement coordinator, Konrad Loewen, the centre is a hub for material resources from across the province. Every comforter and kit sent from Manitoba to MCC’s international programs passes through Plum Coulee. Church and community groups often join in this work at the centre or when Konrad visits their communities.

For MCCM, Plum Coulee and its people truly are Manitoba’s gateway to the world. And again, the stories say, “Thank you!”

Also this year, colleagues in MCC Thrift approximated the value of a volunteer hour: \$20. It’s a number with many applications around the world. That’s more than enough to provide a fuel-saving rocket stove. These stoves use one-third the fuel and save about 2,000 hours of wood gathering each year—time often carried by girls. Less time gathering wood means more time in the classroom—a seemingly simple gift that helps open the door to education for girls.

Your care, your time and your gifts make all of this possible. Thank you!



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

DARRYL LOEWEN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MCC MANITOBA

ABOUT MCC MANITOBA

MCC Manitoba works to relieve injustice, develop people's inherent strengths and foster peace within communities. We strive to create and support individuals and communities through the values of justice, dignity and compassion in the name of Christ, both at home and around the world.

MCC MANITOBA LEADERSHIP TEAM



**Joanna Hiebert
Bergen**
Program Director



Valorie Block
Development &
Communications
Director



Josué Figueroa
Director of Social
Enterprise



Iliana Friesen
Director of Human
Resources



Carlee Friesen
Director of Finance
(SK/MB)



Joni Sawatzky
Executive Office
Administrator

WORKING IN TREATIED TERRITORIES

MCC Manitoba is committed to building right relationships with one another, God and creation.

MCC's work and relationships extend to all five numbered treaties that cover the province, ancestral and current land of the Anishinaabe, Ininiwak/Nêhinawêwak, Dakota, Anishininew, Dene, Inuit and Red River Métis. These treaties are not simply agreements made in the past but require continuous renewal of commitment and action to live well with others on the land. We acknowledge the harms that have been committed to the Indigenous peoples of this land by those of us who have settled here, and we strive toward reconciliation in our words and deeds.

MCC Manitoba seeks to prioritize equity, justice and Indigenous self-determination according to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

MCC MANITOBA 2024/2025 BOARD MEMBERS

Janet Plenert
Chair, MC

John Wieler
Vice-Chair, MB

Carla Kehler
Secretary, Director-at-
Large

Lloyd Plett
Treasurer, Director-at-
Large

Campbell Nisbet
Director-at-Large

Maureen Gathogo
Director-at-Large

Robert Goertzen
EMC

Joan Alty
MBC

Yvonne Stoesz
MC

Danika Warkentin
MC

Lia Campbell Enns
Student Representative

Margaret's decades of dedication

For more than 50 years, Margaret Froese (pictured) has shared her time and skills to support MCC's work around the world. She's contributed in many ways over the years—including at MCC Thrift shops—but her connection to MCC began in childhood, when she helped prepare relief kits during the Second World War. Today, she helps create quilts and handmade goods with *Piece It Together*, which raised \$30,000 last year to support MCC's relief efforts.

Learn more about Piece It Together:

(MCC photo/Jessica Burtnick)



Material resources shipped from Manitoba last year:



7,317

Comforters



1,166

School kits



4,600

Hygiene kits



755

Relief kits



700

Dignity kits



100

Sewing kits



2,814

Volunteer hours

MATERIAL RESOURCES



Your support brings relief and offers hope

At MCC's Plum Coulee Material Resource Centre, shipments of relief supplies—including comforters and school kits—are prepared for communities in need around the world. As a key logistics centre, the warehouse plays an essential role in MCC's international relief work.

Every comforter sent through this space is carefully inspected for quality before shipping. That's where Konrad Loewen, MCC's volunteer and engagement coordinator, comes in. With Konrad's support, volunteers make sure each comforter meets MCC's standards before it's sent where it's needed most. "The vast majority of people who are on the receiving end of the resources from MCC have been displaced from their homes," he says, "and they've had to leave [behind] everything that they had."

While much of the work is hands-on and practical, there's also a deep sense of purpose. Tuesdays at the warehouse are a weekly highlight, when volunteers gather and share stories over their work. Konrad notes that even though everyone holds different perspectives, "they're working towards one common piece. And that, for me, is really living out what Jesus invites us to do."

The Plum Coulee warehouse volunteers collectively gave 1,976 hours of their time last year.

Learn how local action supports MCC's international relief work:





*“Even if all you have
is one hour in a year,
[volunteer] because it
will change a life. It’ll
change your life.”*

KONRAD LOEWEN,
VOLUNTEER AND ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR,
PLUM COULEE MATERIAL RESOURCE CENTRE

Konrad Loewen (top left) with
volunteers and MCC Manitoba
board members at the Plum
Coulee Material Resource Centre.
(Photo courtesy Al Kehler)

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE



A place to grow

Cinnamin Moar (pictured) faced challenges finding work after an autism diagnosis. But when they joined the youth employment program at Sam's Place Coffee, the message was clear: "There's a place for you here." Starting as a barista, Cinnamin is now a supervisor and mentor to others in the program. But they say it's more than job training—it's about building friendships, confidence and community. "It's so rewarding watching [participants] become themselves here," they said.

Learn how youth grow at Sam's Place:



(MCC photo/Josh Paetkau)

You're contributing to spaces where people grow, give and belong.

Volunteer clerk and cashier Ed Dell (pictured) takes extra care to greet visitors and customers to Altona MCC Gift and Thrift Shop, often setting the tone for their visit. "Someone has said 'you are the face of MCC,'" he reflects. "It struck me how significant this initial interaction can be."

Fridays are typically quiet, with time for conversation, browsing the shelves and sharing homemade treats over tea and coffee. Behind the counter, Ed sees the systems that keep the shop running smoothly. Though donations may arrive at random, customer service is thoughtful and organized.



(Photo courtesy of David Rempel)

Volunteering, he says, has opened his eyes to MCC Thrift's mission – giving value to secondhand goods and turning generosity into support for others.

"The motto of MCC, 'In the Name of Christ', draws attention to [the call] to serve," he says, in whatever way one is led to do so.

Adapted from a firsthand account written by Ed Dell: "My Clerking Experiences Volunteering at MCC."

Social enterprise highlights:

\$3,248,074 **1,618**

contributed by Thrift to the work of MCC

MCC Thrift shop volunteers

2,335

training hours (approx.) logged by Sam's Place Coffee program participants

30

youth and young adults gained employable skills

COMMUNITY GIVING



In July 2024, Cycle Clear Lake riders and supporters raised a record-setting \$53,415 to provide bicycles to farmers in Malawi.

“It’s actually quite amazing... that was a fantastic total,” said co-organizer Rick Paddock Thiessen.

The event brought together 41 cyclists of all ages and skill levels to Riding Mountain National Park to complete a challenging course combining both trail and road riding. From root-strewn trails to water crossings, riders faced it all and finished strong—cheered on by a supportive community with a shared commitment to helping others.

Some faced extra hurdles along the way. Les Gustafson-Zook, a first-time participant from Indiana, said the hardest part was probably riding nearly half the route with a broken pedal. Another rider, James Alty from Winnipeg, says he took a tumble but “went down with a smile” on his face.

Learn more about this year’s record-breaking ride:



Maxwell Finley (left) cycled Clear Lake with his grandfather Ed Krueger. (MCC photo/Valorie Block)

Community highlights:

470.8

record-setting Grow Hope acres sponsored in support of global food security

5,416

personal connections made with MCC supporters

4,200

individuals, businesses and churches made a donation

\$32,661

contributed from the annual golf tournament for international education projects

Greenwald harvests hope

Joseph Hofer, a farmer and pastor from Greenwald Hutterite Colony near Beausejour, sees farming as an act of faith and service. “It gives us a sense that we’re part of something bigger that we like to call God’s kingdom at work in our world,” he says.

After a learning tour to Nepal with Canadian Foodgrains Bank to see MCC projects, he was deeply moved by the reality of food scarcity—inspiring his colony to expand their Grow Hope fields from 40 to 80 acres of soybeans in support of MCC’s international food security projects.

Learn more about faith and farming:



Your gifts at work at home



(MCC photo/
Ken Ogasawara)



(MCC photo/
Jessica Burtnick)

PEACE & ADVOCACY

In the highlands of Guatemala, peace means having choices—the choice to stay, to farm and to build a future. When MCC Manitoba’s peace and advocacy coordinator, Marta Bunnett Wiebe (pictured, third from left), visited MCC partners there, she saw how climate change is affecting daily life. MCC works with the K’ekchi’ Mennonite Church, supporting Indigenous families facing drought and food insecurity. Marta met young leaders like Noreen, who are learning to grow food in ways that care for the land and support their families. Back in Manitoba, Marta shares these stories to inspire local action for global peace, justice and care for the Earth.

*See how choice empowers
Guatemalan farmers:*



ABUSE RESPONSE & PREVENTION

A gathering of 18 pastors, spiritual leaders and ministry professionals came together at Canadian Mennonite University in November for a brave conversation. Together, they explored how certain church teachings about purity, gender and power can feed domestic violence. Led by Dr. Valerie Hiebert (pictured), one of MCC Manitoba’s abuse response and prevention coordinators, the day included deep reflection and honest dialogue—tackling the harms of pornography and purity culture and naming how silence and shame leave lasting scars. Participants were challenged to imagine healthier ways forward through truth-telling, compassion and cultural change.

*Hear how healing begins
with truth:*



INDIGENOUS NEIGHBOURS



MCC Manitoba continued to walk the path of reconciliation this year through Share the Gifts: Honour the Treaties (STG-HTT). Developed in partnership with Indigenous leaders, this growing effort invites non-Indigenous communities—especially churches—to take tangible steps toward reparations by supporting Indigenous-led healing projects.

Charleswood Mennonite Church (CMC) is among those leaning in, committing 1% of its donations to Indigenous organizations, including STG-HTT. “There just seems to be a hunger to take in more truth,” said co-pastor Jonathan Neufeld, who joined 30 members—25% of the congregation—on a visit to the National Indigenous Residential School Museum of Canada in Portage la Prairie.

Ko’ona Saber, from the Lynx clan and Peguis First Nation, supports the work. It’s not about ‘you owe me’, she said, “it’s just about human beings getting together and wanting to give and wanting to repair.”

The initiative is now moving toward a fully Indigenous distribution model—a new phase of growth and long-term impact.

One key partnership is with the Kapabamayak Achaak Healing Forest in Winnipeg’s North End, where MCC continues to support land-based healing and relationship-building.

“It’s a significant step,” said Kerry Saner-Harvey, MCC Manitoba’s Indigenous Neighbours co-coordinator, “because we are where we are right now.”

Hear the full Threads radio program here:



Ko’ona Saber (left) sits with Kerry Saner-Harvey in the Kapabamayak Achaak Healing Forest. (MCC photo/Michael Veith)

151

participants in *Our Shared Future* experiential activity

26

events facilitated by the Indigenous Neighbours program and partners

105

people equipped to navigate conflict resolution and peacebuilding through workshops and presentations

12

local partners received support from the Indigenous Neighbours program

200

people attended events about the importance of peace to creation care and climate change response

18

leaders participated in an educational seminar on domestic violence

MIGRATION & RESETTLEMENT

You're reuniting families through sponsorship and support.

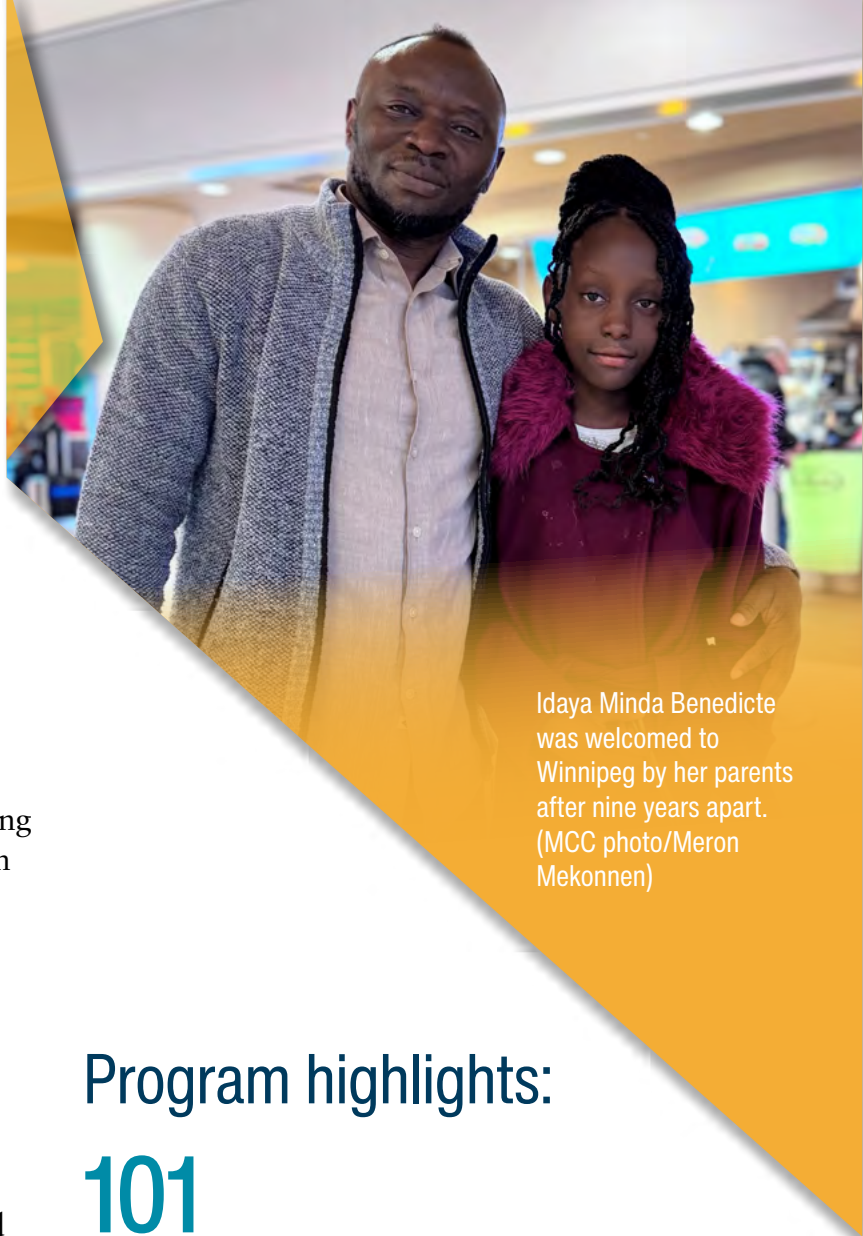
Keffa Minda and Passy Sara Mongo Dibunga, refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, spent 13 years in Uganda before resettling in Canada in 2016. But fear and misinformation led them to make an impossible choice—leaving behind their newborn daughter, Idaya.

For years, they lived with guilt and grief, trying everything to reunite with her without success. Yet their faith in God remained strong and they did not give up hope.

In 2023, they asked MCC for help. It was a complex case, but they were honest, patient and full of faith. Through the Private Sponsorship of Refugees program, MCC helped navigate the process, advocated on their behalf and prayed with them each step of the way.

On April 10, 2025, Idaya arrived in Winnipeg. Her parents welcomed her with open arms, trembling voices and joyful tears. After nine years, their family was whole again.

Learn more about the power of refugee sponsorship with MCC:



Idaya Minda Benedicte was welcomed to Winnipeg by her parents after nine years apart. (MCC photo/Meron Mekonnen)

Program highlights:

101

refugees from these countries were resettled in urban and rural Manitoba through MCC-supported sponsorship:

Afghanistan
DR Congo
Ethiopia
Eritrea
Iraq
Myanmar
Somalia
Sudan
Syria
and more

52

community and church sponsor groups

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

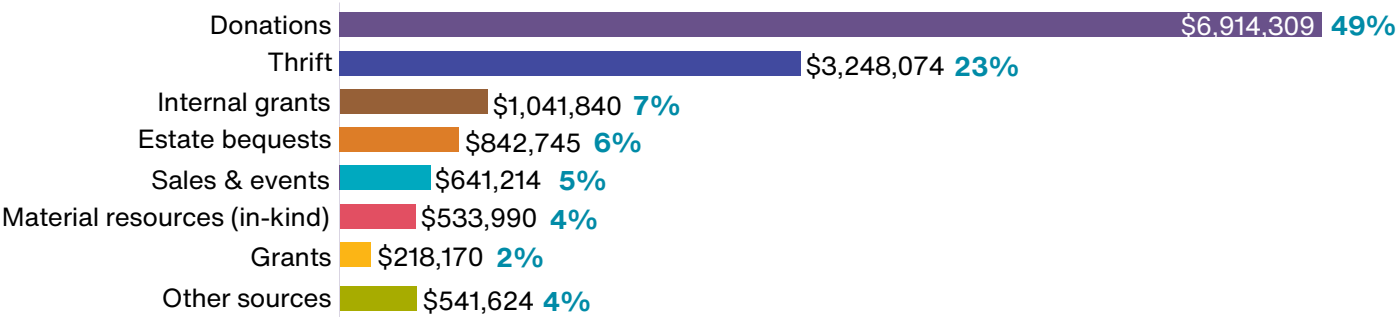
These 2024-2025 fiscal year numbers reflect the kindness of compassionate donors, the generous contribution of MCC Thrift shops and the support of grant programs.

Scan the QR code for complete audited financial statements:



TOTAL REVENUE:
13,981,966

Funding sources



TOTAL EXPENSES:
13,734,287

